

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O R 161518Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5451
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECNAV WASHDC
OJCS WASHDC
OCNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1295

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, NO
SUBJ: NYT ARTICLE ON US NAVY'S WARTIME ROLE

1. NORWAY'S LEADING DAILY "AFTENPOSTEN" CARRIED AN ARTICLE
MARCH 16 ENTITLED "CARTER'S NAVY SECRETARY SAYS NORWAY CAN
BE ABANDONED" WHICH WAS
ESSENTIALLY A REPRINT OF THE MARCH 15 NYT STORY DEALING WITH
NAVY SECRETARY CLAYTON'S MEMORANDA TO SECDEF BROWN. THE POINT
EMPHASIZED IN THE PIECE WAS THE USG'S ALLEGED CONTEMPLATION OF
LIMITING THE NAVY'S WARTIME ROLE TO THE POINT THAT THE SOVIET
UNION WOULD BEGIN QUOTE GAIN CONTROL OF THE NORWEGIAN SEA AND THE
MEDITERRANEAN. END QUOTE. A SUPPLY ROUTE NAVY, THE STORY
CONTINUES, COULD NOT PUNISH THE RUSSIANS AND PREVENT THE LOSS
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OF NORWAY OR ICELAND.

2. THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A SHIFT IN US STRATEGY FOR
NORWEGIAN DEFENSE WHICH IS PREDICATED ON MASSIVE ALLIED
REINFORCEMENTS ARE CLEAR AND POTENTIALLY DAMNING. MOD
UNDERSECRETARY JOHAN JORGEN HOLST UNDERScoreD THIS TO THE
AMBASSADOR DURING AMARCH 16 MEETING AND SAID THAT THE MOST IMMEDIATE

IMPACT OF THE STORY MIGHT BE ON THE SACLANT POL STORAGE FACILITY AT NAMSOS. THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE CONSIDERING THE PROJECT SOON AND QUESTIONS OF ITS CONTINUING UTILITY GIVEN A POSSIBLE NEW SACLANT MISSION AS DESCRIBED IN THE NYT ARTICLE, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ARISE. HOLST ASKED IF WE COULD QUERY WASHINGTON FOR A CLARIFICATION.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE SEEING MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANSEN AT 10 A.M. MARCH 20. THIS OCCASION WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE US NAVY'S WARTIME ROLE RAISED IN THE NYT ARTICLE. FURTHERMORE, WE EXPECT THE "AFTENPOSTEN" STORY WILL STIMULATE CONSIDERABLE MEDIA INTEREST AND PRESS INQUIRIES FOR WHICH PRESS GUIDANCE WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY COB MARCH 20.
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Message Attributes

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